

## Amendments to Specification

Please replace a paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present invention relates to a latch device used, for example, when a movable member such as a lid and so on is detachably engaged with a box-like base member, and ~~is~~ formed of a push-push engagement mechanism (this can be referred to as a push-lock and push-open mechanism), wherein a striker is engaged by the first pushing operation, and is released by the next pushing operation.

Please replace a paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The latch device 80 in Fig. 9 includes a case 81, a latch member 82, a spring member 85, and a pin member 86 for tracing. The latch member 82 includes heart-shaped cam grooves 83A, 83B on both bottom sides (front and back of the sheet of the drawing), and a pair of elastic engagement portions 84 on the upper side, and are is urged and moved in a case projecting direction with an urging force of the spring member 85 relative to the case 81. Both cam grooves 83A, 83B have a roughly heart shape as a whole similar to the cam groove 73, but they are ~~irregularly~~ shaped differently. The pin member 86 is generally U-shaped, and the intermediate portion 86a of the U-shape is fixed on the inner bottom face of the case 81. Also, the edges 86b on both sides of the U-shape are bent inwardly to project into the corresponding cam grooves 83A, 83B.

Please replace a paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0014] In the latch device, when the striker pushes down the latch member in the engagement position against the urging force of the spring member, both edges of the pin member move along the corresponding cam grooves and are engaged in the engagement grooves of the cam grooves. When the striker is pushed again and this pushing force is released, this engagement state returns to the initial position after the edges of the pin member slip out of the

engagement grooves and the latch member is urged and moved to the release position by the spring member[[,]].

Please replace paragraphs [0018] and [0019] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0018] In the pin member, the U-shaped side portions are pressed to contact with the corresponding inner side faces of the case, and each edge of the U-shaped side portions ~~project~~ projects in a non-contact state with the groove bottom face relative to the corresponding cam grooves. The U-shaped side portions prevent the pin member from improperly swinging due to external vibration, etc. by contact pressures of the U-shaped side portions, and also prevent the improper operations. The edges of the U-shaped side portions come to the non-contact state with the groove bottom faces of the cam grooves, so that the friction of the corresponding portions can be suppressed and the operating sound when the operation is switched can be reliably prevented.

[0019] The latch member is composed of a sliding member including the cam grooves and an opening provided on the upper side from the cam grooves and being able ~~slid~~ to slide in order to be switched between the release position and the engagement position; and a latch claw pivoted on the sliding member and projecting from the opening such that the striker is prevented from being released or removed. Also, the latch member is generally fitted inside the case in the release position. This prevents the latch member from projecting from the case in the release position as little as possible, and keeps the appearance satisfactory.

Please replace a paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The latch device 1 of the embodiment is composed of a case 2; a latch members 3; and a spring member 4. Also, the latch member 3 includes a sliding member 30, and a latch claw 37. Here, ~~materials for~~ the case 2, the sliding member 30, and the latch claw 37 are resin injection molding products, and the spring member 4 is made of metal or an alloy. However, other materials can be used.

Also, the latch device 1 has the same intended use as the above-mentioned prior art devices, and is used when a movable member such as a lid, etc. is detachably engaged with a box-like base member. Usually, the latch device 1 is attached to the box-like base member, and the striker 62 provided on the movable member is engaged and disengaged. However, it can be used by attaching the latch device 1 to the movable member and engaging with and disengaging from the striker 62 provided on the box-like base member, as shown in Japanese Patent No. 3314903.

Please replace a paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0028] The elastic supporting pieces 23a, 23b are placed opposite to each other through a small gap. One side 23a is formed short and another side 23b is formed long. The U-shaped intermediate portion 6a of the pin member 6 can be held with a predetermined supporting force as shown in Fig. 1(a). The pin-catching portions 23c are places where both sides of the U-shaped intermediate portion 6a supported between the elastic supporting pieces 23a, 23b are caught. The supporting axis 26 ~~project~~ projects in the middle between the right and left, whose edge has a height visible through the guide groove 20a.

Please replace a paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] The main member 31 is formed in a roughly U shape frame with an upper ~~hem~~ portion 31a and both side ~~hems~~ portions 31b. On the upper side, an opening 33 surrounded by the upper ~~hem~~ portion 31a and both side ~~hems~~ portions 31b is provided. On the lower side, axis bores 33a passing through the same axis line relative to the side ~~hems~~ portions 31b and depressed portions 33b are additionally provided. Also, a tube or hollow portion 34 is additionally provided between the side ~~hems~~ portions 31b. The tube portion 34 has a bore wherein in an inner side 34a, the supporting axis 26 and the upper side of the spring member 4 can slidably engage. Also, the tube portion 34 includes a projection 34b fitted

into the guide groove 20a, and a notch 34c cut in the upper side of the projection 34b.

Please replace paragraphs [0033] and [0034] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0033] Both sides of the cam grooves 5, as ~~show~~ shown in Figs. 6(d)-6(f), have the same height and shape, and are formed and divided by convex cam islands 35 projecting in the roughly central part of the vertical wall portion 32b. Each cam groove 5 includes a blade piece 36a extending over a lower side of the vertical wall portion 32b; a thick-walled portion 36b provided on the vertical wall ~~portions~~ portion 32b and forming the entrance side of the cam groove 5 together with the blade piece 36a; and two small projections 36c, 36d provided under the horizontal wall portion 32a. In operation, in Figs. 6(e) and 6(f), each cam groove includes an introducing groove 5a extending to the upper right side from the lower side; an introducing groove 5b for engagement and an introducing groove 5d for release, which are located on the upper side of the introducing groove 5a and parted right and left; a depressed engagement groove 5c located on the lower side between the introducing grooves 5b, 5d; and a return groove 5e extending to the lower side from the introducing groove 5d. Also, the bottom face of each groove 5a-5e has a roughly flat surface.

[0034] On the other hand, the latch claw 37, as shown in Figs. 4 and 7(a)-7(e), is formed of a supporting plate 38 and a claw portion 39, and the whole part is located between the upper ~~hem~~ portion 31a and both side ~~hems~~ portions 31b of the main member 31 in a state where the claw portion 39 is located inside the opening 33. In the supporting plate 38, at the upper portion 38a, the claw portion 39 projects, and at the lower portion 38b, there is no intermediate part. When the upper portion 38a is disposed inside the U-shaped frame of the main member 31, the claw portion 39 enters the opening 33. The lower portion 38b has two pieces extending from the upper portion 38a, and includes axis portions 37a provided on the external surfaces of the lower portions 38b in the middle thereof; and projecting portions 38c provided on the

lower ends. A projecting piece 37b entering into the tube portion 34 is provided between both lower portions 38b.